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metroNEWS

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**Artist hopes to inspire kindness with Halifax mural**

metroNEWS

Lovebot creator Matthew Del Degan works on a mural in Mulgrave Park on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Butting out illegal cigs

DARTMOUTH

### Close to one million contraband smokes seized



**Zane  
Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

Nova Scotia is losing millions of dollars every year in tax revenue because of illegal cigarettes like those seized this week.

Service Nova Scotia announced Wednesday it had seized 870,000 contraband smokes following a seven-month investigation conducted with RCMP and Halifax Regional Police.

"This is certainly one of the larger seizures that we've made in the last three to four years," Bernie Meagher, director of audit and enforcement for Service Nova Scotia, said on Wednesday.

The tobacco, found during a search of three storage units

on Tacoma Drive and Windmill Road in Dartmouth on Tuesday, has an estimated street value of \$152,000, and the tax revenue lost totals \$240,000.

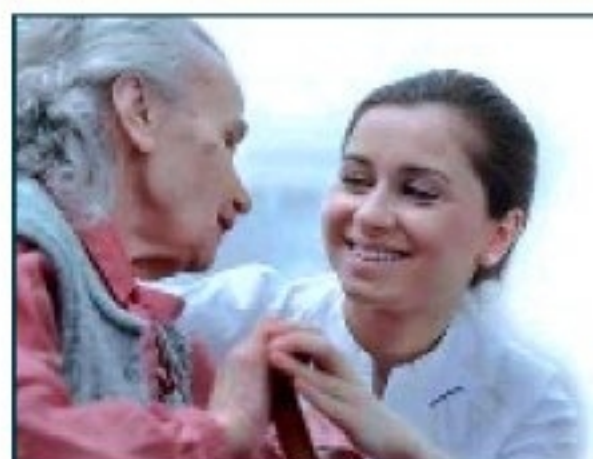
Meagher said up to 10 per cent of tobacco in the province is illegal. That means the government is losing up to \$10 million annually in tax revenue.

It also undermines the province's tobacco control strategy, he said.

"Tobacco smuggling undermines that because it provides cheap tobacco to smokers and invites young people to start smoking because they can afford to buy that product," he said.

Meagher said Nova Scotia has beefed up enforcement in an attempt to rein in the revenue and the loss of control, and he said they're making progress: 10 years ago, one in three cigarettes was an illegal one.

Three men from the Halifax area and one from Ontario are due in court in August to face charges in relation to Tuesday's seizure.



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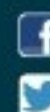
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## ATLANTIC LOTTERY

### Winner claims \$9.8M

The winning \$9.8-million Atlantic Lottery ticket bought in Dartmouth this weekend has been claimed.

The identity of Nova Scotia's latest lottery multi-millionaire will be revealed Thursday.

The winning Lotto 649 ticket in Saturday night's draw was worth \$9,824,873.50 to be exact.

The ticket with a guaranteed prize of \$1 million in Saturday night's draw was sold in Ontario. Next week's grand prize is an estimated \$5 million.

METRO HALIFAX

## Police say victim blameless, should focus on perpetrator

### CRIME

#### React to online trolls who say woman wrong to walk at 4 a.m.



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

News about a woman being chased by someone in the wee

hours of Wednesday morning had online trolls blaming the woman for walking alone at 4 a.m.

"What the hell do you expect when you're walking alone on the streets at 4 a.m. Do you think you're not going to encounter a nutcase or pervert of some kind?," one man commented on Metro's Facebook page.

"That's like swimming in shark infested waters with a bloody stump and wondering why you're surrounded by



**You should be able to walk any time of day.**

Dianne Woodworth, HRP

sharks."

But police are reminding people it's the actions of perpetrators, not victims, that are at issue.

"This lady did nothing wrong.

You should be able to walk any time of day and it's unfortunate that this happened at that time of day and people are using that against her," said Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Dianne Woodworth.

"That's not fair. What if she's a shift worker? It's not about what time of day she was walking. It's about the actions of this man."

Police took a 28-year-old man into custody after a woman complained about having been chased by someone as she

walked towards her Charles Street home at about 4 a.m.

In a press release, police said the woman noticed a man following her. She ran, but the man pursued her and screamed sexually explicit comments at her. She contacted police soon after getting into her house.

Police said they arrested a man in the area of the incident. He was held in custody for trespassing and breaches of court orders. Police are still investigating the incident.

## LOVE

### Married 80 years, man passes away

A Nova Scotia man has died at the age of 101 after 80 years of marriage.

Bill Nickerson passed away Sunday at the home he shared with wife, Bertie, 98, since 1935.

They met in Bill's hometown of Liverpool and married after three years so 15-year-old Bertie could finish high school.

Bill worked much of his life at the nearby paper mill, while Bertie was a nurse.

They were named the longest-married in Canada in 2015 in a contest run by Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Bill is survived by his son, Peter, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and the love of his life. THE CANADIAN PRESS



### HALIFAX CLEAN SWEEP TAKING IT TO THE STREET

Members of the Cambridge Suites "Trash Pandas" clean up garbage in the downtown as part of the annual Downtown Halifax Clean Sweep on Wednesday.

This year, close to a 100 volunteers came together to fill a total 28 bags of garbage and 11 bags of recycling with a goal of raising awareness of litter in the city's downtown core.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

**"Best show I have ever seen. It was an absolutely spectacular event. Loved it."**  
— Jacquelyn Mildrum, Lyme, CT



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# Tapping into the craze

BEER

## Alexander Keith's to release series of craft brews



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

The "Pride of Nova Scotia" is looking to cash in on the small-batch beer craze that has taken the province by storm in recent years.

Alexander Keith's announced Wednesday that it's hired brewmaster Stefan Gagliardi to work at its original downtown Halifax location brewing small batches of his own creations.

"It's a dream come true," the giddy Gagliardi said Wednesday, standing in front of the first few tanks of his inaugural brew, Keith's Cornerstone Edinburgh Pale Ale.

The facility downtown — where Keith himself once brewed — has sat as a museum piece for almost 10 years, but is now up and running again.

"I've got big shoes to fill," Gagliardi said. "Mr. Keith was not exactly a quiet man so I'm doing everything I can to make sure that the beers live up to his name."

The tour of the brewery, which runs 17 times daily, will also be changing next week, updating from a trip back in time to 1863 to the present day, operations manager Bill Scollard said on Wednesday.

But the tour will still be very much about the beer's namesake.

"Mr. Keith, we like to say, he was a small batch brewer from 1820, and at the loca-



Alexander Keith's brewmaster Stefan Gagliardi checks a batch of stout at the brewery on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

tion he started, we're making small batch brews again," said Scollard.

"What this really represents is Keith's getting back to its roots, going to all-malt brews and really getting creative and having fun," said Gagliardi. "That's really what our main focus is. There's a lot of Keith's drinkers out there and we just want to entice them to taste new flavours and give them an

experience and another opportunity to drink a Keith's beer."

Brian Titus, president of Garrison Brewing Co. and vice-president of the Craft Brewers Association of Nova Scotia, sees the move as a way for a big player to "stay relevant" in a time when craft breweries like his have gobbled up a significant chunk of market share.

"There's a whole bunch

of trends at play here and they're all negatively impacting the status quo," he said Wednesday.

"It's very much an attempt to kind of stem that trend, which isn't a good one for them."

But Titus isn't worried about the new brews impacting his business.

"It's not a threat," he said. "It makes this industry that much more exciting, and to

### + OPEN HOUSE

The brewery is holding a launch party on June 16 where people can try the new beer, eat some food, and talk shop with the brewmaster.

a certain degree, that much more unpredictable. It's just what makes it interesting."

RADIO

## French station to stay on air



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

After a financial crisis that threatened to take it off the air, Halifax's only French language community radio station unveiled its new look, logo and programming at a Wednesday night launch party.

Earlier this year, CKRH 98.5 FM owed Revenue Canada \$60,000. The volunteer board launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds to help cover operating costs.

Board members paid the last Revenue Canada bill on May 15 and are looking forward to a new era. The station has been rebranded 'Oui 98.5.'

"We chose Oui (yes) as the name of the radio station because it is the most famous and known French word," Souhael Bouallagui, secretary for Oui 98.5, said in an interview.

"In English it's also 'we.' Oui, it's positive, it's a better image and it's inclusive. We want the community involved."

With a new slate of programming and advertising plans in place, Bouallagui said board members and their supporters are excited.

"We have people from France like myself, people from Lebanon, from here, Ontario, so many different places and you don't always have a common point that you share, but French is always in the middle of it," he said.

"Sometimes you get homesick a little bit. We have Radio Canada doing a good job but there's not a lot of choice. We're just adding one more French voice here, the only community (French) voice in this region."

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## CROWDFUNDING

## #HaliCop busker supported

A crowdfunding page set up to help the street performer in the viral #HaliCop photo was more than two thirds of the way to reaching its \$3,000

goal on Wednesday.

The GoFundMe page, set up on Sunday by Spring Garden Road classical violinist Stephen Gates's brother, aims to raise

the money to help Gates fix up the violin that helps him get by.

In the viral photo, Gates is seen chatting with Halifax Regional Police Const. Shawn Currie, sitting casually on the sidewalk on Spring Garden Road, where Gates can often be found playing the violin.

Currie was praised online for his compassionate style of policing, and was then photo-shopped into everything from a Vincent van Gogh painting to a Miley Cyrus video.

But the Facebook page HaliFolks has been shining a light on the other man in the photo, asking people to help Gates, who's "been fighting an uphill battle since a brain injury affected his life forever in 1997."

"If you have a spare loonie or more to give, please consider tossing into the violin case of Steve's GoFundMe page below as you walk by this post today," reads a post on the page.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO



A crowdfunding page has been set up to raise money for violinist Stephen Gates. STEPHEN GATES/KICKSTARTER

## POLICE

## Arson charges laid after weekend fire

A Halifax man is facing arson charges after a weekend fire.

At 6:36 p.m. on Sunday, Halifax Regional Police officers responded to a report of garbage on fire in an alleyway in the 5500 block of Cunard Street, according to a release.

Police were told a man had been seen in the alley moments before the fire started,

and had then walked west on Cunard Street.

Following an investigation, police said a man was arrested at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the 2000 block of Gottingen Street without incident.

Shawn St. Claire McOnie, 40, of Halifax is facing charges of arson and breach of a recognizance. METRO

## IN BRIEF

## Police investigate possible shots fired

Police are investigating reports of gunshots fired in Dartmouth early Wednesday.

At about 12:10 a.m., officers responded to a report of possible shots heard in the area of Prince Albert Road and Lawrence Street.

Although officers and K9 searched the area, they weren't able to locate any evidence. METRO

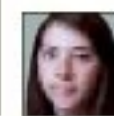


Work gets underway on a Lovebot mural on Tuesday evening. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Lovebot creator brightens up city

## ART

## Toronto man brings blank wall to life at Mulgrave Park



HALEY RYAN  
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

A blank wall in Mulgrave Park has been brought to life with an octopus, a sou'wester-sporting robot, and a lot of love.

This week Toronto artist Matthew Del Degan created a mural in the public housing neighbourhood in Halifax while in town visiting a friend.

"This is the perfect location. There's kids everywhere and it's community housing which is sweet," Del Degan said Wednesday afternoon beside the mural, which he was hoping to finish by nightfall with help from the local Blackbook Collective, who donated the paint and suggested the wall space.

The robot with a heart, Lovebot, pops up in much of Del Degan's artwork and formed the inspiration for his own company, which manufactures toy versions of the bot, as well as stickers and other merchandise.

Del Degan said Lovebot is all about good vibes and spreading positivity, and came out of a situation on a Toronto streetcar where Del Degan was struck

by everyone sitting in silence while he chatted and laughed with a stranger.

"We were having a blast and every time we stopped talking it was silent ... I was thinking like 'Is everybody just a robot?'" Del Degan said, and decided to make a faceless robot toy for a university class on production design.

"I was like 'Oh, that's really dark,' so I put a heart in there to say, 'Hey, we all have the ability to love and be positive.'"

Since then Lovebot and art has taken Del Degan all around the world, with the next stops on his list being Japan and Venice, Italy, where his family hails from.

Although Del Degan said the international mural circuit produces technically beautiful paintings, art is really about having a message: "What are you trying to say with it?"



I hope I can inspire some kids to want to create stuff.

Matthew Del Degan

## EDUCATION

## Daycare workers get a raise

Pay increases are coming for Nova Scotia daycare workers, who are the lowest paid in the country.

The provincial government says as of October early childhood education workers will see their pay rise with their level of training, from an average low of \$12.84 an hour to between \$15 and \$19 an hour.

The government says the increases will push wages to the national average, based on data from 2012.

Daily subsidies for parents will also be increased, which means parents could pay about \$140 less a month for infant care and \$80 less for toddler and preschool care.

Currently, families earning

more than \$21,000 a year are not eligible for the maximum subsidy, but that threshold will be increased to \$25,000 on July 1.

The changes, to be implemented over five years, will also require all early childhood educators to have a degree, diploma or certificate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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FISHING

# Lobster business is strong this season

Lobster fishermen in southwest Nova Scotia say they're closing out the season with some of the best prices in a decade.

Bernie Berry of the Coldwater Lobster Association says fishing wrapped up Tuesday at midnight in fishing area 34 with a closing price of \$6 a pound.

He says early indications are that catches could rival last year's haul of 55 million pounds for that area, which stretches from Shelburne to Digby counties.

Berry attributes the good catches to favourable weather, the low Canadian dollar, and affordable fuel prices.

Growing markets in both

Europe and Asia were also a contributing factor, according to Berry.

He says demand has gone up dramatically in recent years, so much so that fishermen say they are almost having trouble satisfying the growing appetite for the crustaceans, particularly in China.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



**It was a good season - catches were good (and) price was up.**

Bernie Berry

CULTURE

# Halifax artist up for the Sobey Art Award

Five artists from across Canada have made the short list for the Sobey Art Award.

This year's contenders include Halifax-based William Robinson and Berlin-based Vancouver artist Jeremy Shaw.

Toronto resident Charles Stankiech, who hails from Okotoks, Alta., Edmonton-based Brenda Draney and Montreal's Hajra Waheed round out the list.

The grand prize winner is awarded \$50,000, while each

of the other shortlisted artists receives a \$10,000 consolation prize.

The artists will have their works exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada from Oct. 6 to Feb. 5, 2017, and the award will be handed out at a gala event at the gallery in November.

The prize for Canadian contemporary artists aged 40 and under was initiated in 2002 by the Sobey Art Foundation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**\$50,000**

**The value of the Sobey Art Award grand prize. Shortlisted runners-up receive \$10,000.**



Halifax singer-songwriter Ria. CONTRIBUTED

# 'That's worth more than money': Ria

MUSIC

## Local performer reflects on year of challenges as her album drops



**Halley Ryan**  
Metro | Halifax

The Juno nod, millions of streams, sold-out hometown show, and a track approaching Platinum — all are huge milestones, but for Ria Mae the best gift came from one phone call.

Mae, a Halifax native who recently moved to Montreal, is in the city performing at The Seahorse Tavern on Thursday night

to launch her self-titled album a day before it drops from Sony Music Canada.

"This is where I started," Mae said. "My career before was on a smaller scale, but it was very much because of Halifax and the Halifax scene."

The new album, featuring the hit Clothes Off that was nominated for single of the year at the last Juno Awards, is a detour from the singer-songwriter records Mae had been putting out since 2011's Under Your Skin.

But Mae said she'd always loved the more upbeat style, and it just took a while to reflect on why the music she was creating was "not in line with what I love."

With local rapper Classified producing, Mae brought the

songs half-finished to his Enfield studio and the pair worked each track, adding voice distortion, different beats, and just experimenting.

"I was like, 'Well, if we're going, we might as well go big or go home,'" Mae said with a smile.

After shopping around the music to labels while looking for a manager, however, Mae ran into walls and rejections and began doubting her abilities.

"I had this thing in my head where I was like 'I must just be crazy, I must be delusional,'" Mae said.

She released Clothes Off first on her own in 2014. It was picked up by local Radio 96.5 by a programmer who wanted to support local music, Mae said.

Someone at Sony Canada

heard it, which led to the call Mae got driving home from Classified's studio to offer her a deal.

"I pulled over and I was just crying. It was so emotional," Mae said, shaking her head.

"That's worth more than money, it's worth more than anything, record sales. Something that you've been doing since you were 14, to know that it's actually validated now, you're not delusional. I think that's the best gift in the whole thing."



**You have no idea how much can change in a year.**

Ria Mae

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Kindness on display.  
PHOTOS: KEVIN TUONG/METRO



Gerald Wong is the first to re-enter McMurray TV Centre.



Some lawns haven't been maintained in a while.



A playground is a reminder of the rebuilding to come.

## FORT MCMURRAY

## A family's homecoming

The first thing they noticed is the smell. Well, the lack of it.

"It smells so good," said Heather Thomas, who along with her husband Russell walked into her house for the first time in almost a month Wednesday after being allowed to return to Fort McMurray.

Heather, Russell and their two sons live just outside of downtown Fort McMurray, in a house surrounded by a large garden.

It's an area relatively untouched by the wildfire that forced more than 90,000 to flee the city.

But that's not to say the house wasn't threatened: The hill right across from the Thomas' neighbourhood is a sea of burnt trees.

That led to all sorts of stress and worry.

"In the first couple of days, there was no level of comfort around this part of town," Russell said.

"Oh, rumours, left right and centre," Heather added. "This is gone, that's blown up."

Thankfully, none were true.

Inside the house, the couple took in their surroundings Wednesday: Despite the faint scent of smoke and a few things left in a hurry, it was all as if they'd left it that morning rather than in early May.



Russell and Heather Thomas embrace in their home.  
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Having assessed the house's general condition, the couple then went to other areas.

Russell, an artist, headed to his studio out back. He opened the door and looked relieved.

A dozen or so paintings were safe.

The two emphasized how lucky they are compared to the many who have lost houses.

But: "We haven't seen what agencies are lost, what neighbours and friends' and colleagues' homes look like," Heather said.

The next hurdle, Russell added, is knowing who's back, who's coming back and who isn't. ALEX BOYD/METRO

## Return to FORT MAC

## A city comes back from its toughest moment



Alex Boyd  
Metro | Edmonton

On Wednesday morning, Gerald Wong watched his city come back to life.

"Three days ago it was literally a ghost town," said Wong, a lifelong resident who arrived back in Fort McMurray early to

reopen McMurray T.V. Centre, the electronics store he manages.

"I would stand in the middle of Franklin [Avenue], right there," he said, pointing to Fort McMurray's main street.

As the first wave of residents returned to their fire-ravaged city Wednesday, car after car honked at a line of firefighters, who hoisted a Canada flag on their ladders atop an overpass.

After almost a month in exile, Wednesday marked the start of the staged re-entry of the estimated 90,000 thousand people forced to flee the wildfire.

The first zone to be reopened includes downtown, which was

relatively unscathed by fire, with major residential neighbourhoods that were more affected opening later in the week.

Standing on the sidewalk on Franklin, morning radio show host Matthew Baron was offering a welcome of his own, standing beside a sign reading "Free Welcome Home Hugs."

"Every morning when I'm on the air you can come on down, tap on the window of the studio and I'll give you a hug."

Despite the uptick in activity, there are still signs of what happened while all were gone.

Grass on otherwise well-tended lots is ankle deep. A

recycling bin holds hundreds of copies of the May issue of a local newsletter that will never be read.

The dumpsters of a local convenience store are piled high with frozen chickens and cheese buns that expired weeks ago.

Most stores are closed, but personnel linked to services deemed essential were let back into the city early — so some grocery stores are open, gas stations ready to fuel cars, but not much else.

There aren't a lot of people around yet, but with the extra police and government vehicles, residents say traffic is almost back to normal.

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# The social challenges of Parliament Hill

## POLITICS

### Overindulgence is easy for many at wine-fuelled gatherings

Life on Parliament Hill, with its parade of free meals and wine-soaked networking events, can make it difficult for even the most stout-willed politicians, staffers and journalists to avoid overindulging at the best of times.

"It's an occupational hazard," said one former senior political aide from a previous Liberal government.

So imagine the challenge

for those struggling with alcohol issues, such as Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo, who stepped down from his cabinet post and left the Liberal caucus Tuesday to seek treatment for what the Prime Minister's Office has only referred to as "addiction issues."

Tootoo has not spoken about his experience, but former MPs and staffers recall a lifestyle marked by multiple receptions with stakeholders every night, where socializing with a drink in hand is considered part of the job.

Former Liberal MP Marlene Jennings remembers the atmosphere during her time in Ottawa, with a variety of organizations hosting receptions as

## + PM COMMENTS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says it was Hunter Tootoo's own decision to leave the Liberal caucus and resign from cabinet to deal with "addiction issues."

part of their lobbying efforts on any given night. MPs and senators would circle the room to exchange business cards with a glass of wine in their hands before heading back to a debate — or on to another event.

"Even those who have absolutely no drinking problem, it becomes really easy to have

that glass of wine and then have the second one and you're not realizing that you're on to your third one," she said Wednesday.

Don Boudria, an Ottawa-based lobbyist and former Liberal member of Parliament, says more awareness about mental health and addiction — and more women on Parliament Hill — means things are not nearly as bad as they used to be.

And they were bad, he said, recalling seeing people drinking themselves literally under the table when he was a staffer at the start of his political career.

"All of these things have changed, and thank God they have," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hunter Tootoo has resigned from the federal cabinet and the Liberal caucus, citing "addiction issues." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Gun drama on campus

UCLA

## Overwhelming response to murder-suicide

A murder-suicide at a UCLA engineering building Wednesday drew hundreds of heavily armed officers who swarmed the Los Angeles campus, where students close to summer break barricaded themselves in classrooms as best they could before being evacuated with their hands up.

About two hours after the first 911 call came in around 10 a.m., with the centre of campus still saturated with officers, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck declared the threat over. Two men were dead in an office, and authorities found a gun and what might be a suicide note, he said.

Authorities did not identify the men, and a motive was not immediately clear.

The response to the shooting was overwhelming:

Teams of officers in helmets and bulletproof vests who were looking for victims and suspects

ran across the normally tranquil campus tucked in the city's bustling west side. Some with high-powered rifles yelled for bystanders to evacuate. Groups of officers stormed into buildings that had been locked down and cleared hallways as police helicopters hovered overhead.

Advised by university text alerts to turn out the lights and lock the doors where they were, many students let friends and family know they were safe in social media posts. Some described frantic evacuation scenes, while others wrote their doors weren't locking and posted photos of photocopiers and foosball tables they used as barricades.

Those locked down inside classrooms described a nervous calm. Some said they had to rig the doors closed with whatever was at hand because they would not lock.

SWAT officers cleared occupants one by one. One man walked out with his hands up and was told to get on his knees. An armed officer searched him and his backpack, then sent him on his way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man searches for people in flooded buildings in the town of Montargis, south of Paris, on Wednesday. Torrential downpours have lashed parts of northern Europe. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Residents pass through the flooded streets of Montargis via an inflatable raft. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## FLOODING

## Rain pummels French cities

Floods devastated regions across France on Wednesday — in some areas, the worst seen in a century or more. The Seine River overflowed its banks, one French town was evacuated, travellers trapped on a submerged highway were rescued by soldiers and boat cruises in Paris were cancelled.

Meteorologists said more bad news is coming — the waters are

expected to keep rising for days.

Drenched tourists were rearranging plans, schools in one region were shut down and the French government pressed to rescue thousands of people trapped in homes or cars in provincial towns.

No casualties have been reported, but emergency workers have carried out more than 8,000 rescue operations from

the Belgian border south to Burgundy over the past two days, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Wednesday.

Paris City Hall closed roads along the shores of the Seine from the Left Bank in the east to the Eiffel Tower neighbourhood in the west, as water levels rose at least 4.3 metres (14 feet, 1 inch) higher than usual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Egypt says signals picked up from plane's black box

Egypt said Wednesday that a French ship has picked up signals from deep under the Mediterranean Sea, presumed to be from one of the black boxes of the EgyptAir plane that crashed last month, killing all 66 passengers and crew on board. The development raised hopes the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders, known as the black boxes, could be retrieved and shed light on the aircraft's crash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Spare the children: UN

The UN children's fund issued a stark warning to Iraqi troops and Daesh militants in the battle for Fallujah to spare the children, the most vulnerable among civilians who remain trapped by the fighting for control of this city west of Baghdad. The UNICEF estimated the number of the children trapped with their families inside the city at about 20,000, warning that they face a dire humanitarian situation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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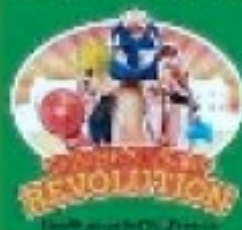
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## DESMOND COLE ON MARIJUANA



**The line between needing pot for an illness and wanting it for pleasure needs to be blurred in order to erase stigma, and avoid foolish expenditure of resources.**

The problem is pot stigma, not the "black market."

Last week's police raids of marijuana dispensaries in Toronto exposed an important feature of the so-called "war on drugs" in Canada. For years, most Canadians have told pollsters that pot should be legalized or decriminalized. More and more people are recognizing the medical benefits of weed. Our war, then, seems not so much on marijuana as it is on people who have been selling and using it illegally, especially for recreation.

Pot advocates have warned that the "black market" of presumed gangsters will benefit from the dispensary raids. To me, the "black market" is just another term for the people you bought your weed from before dispensaries.

Our government has exploited the stigma of consuming pot for fun, rather than for health, to criminalize the market and create space for armed, organized gangs to control it. It's going to take a lot more than legalization to end a stigma around weed that has encouraged crime and led to an untold waste of public resources.

It's easy to hate the players in the drug trade, especially those who can't afford a storefront, but the foolish game of prohibition itself is the reason people cannot access marijuana in peace and safety. The problem is

**I don't care if someone without a medical condition can get weed from a dispensary or dealer, as long as no one is harmed.**

not that people with shady motives want to sell weed, but that the government has incentivized such people by making it a crime to grow and sell pot.

Graham Clark, a Toronto criminal lawyer, seized on this in his reaction to the recent dispensary raids. "Every person who now cannot go to a dispensary will instead have to trek into the black market that government and police, through prohibition, create to the great

Cannabis Coalition argued, "when compared with (government-sanctioned) mail order or the black market, dispensaries in Toronto provide a safe, informative environment where patients can source high-quality medical cannabis."

This statement is true, but the contrast between dispensaries and street drugs reinforces stigma. Just as people who use pot for medicinal purposes have long relied on illegal, recrea-

blurred in order to erase pot stigma. Yes, there is a big difference between needing pot for a diagnosed illness and wanting it for pleasure. But the difference should never be used to justify the violence, policing costs, criminal records, prison sentences, and court expenses the government currently employs against recreational users and suppliers.

I don't care if someone without a medical condition can get weed from a dispensary, or her local dealer, or by growing it at home, as long as no one is harmed or threatened in the process.

Removing the stigma associated with marijuana can help us to avoid more foolish time and resource expenditures in the future. For example, in a post-legalization era, the government should make it cheap and easy for people to receive pardons with criminal records related to pot.

There shouldn't be any sanction for smoking weed in public, selling it on the street, or growing small amounts of it on the balcony — it cannot be added to the preposterous regime of provincial-offence tickets for such horrors as drinking in public, begging for change, or sleeping in a public park.

Pot proponents will have to fight for these realities — they will be less successful in doing so if they reinforce the stigma around weed that makes it OK to sell weed in a posh dispensary, but not OK to grow at home, smoke in public, or trade on the street. If people want marijuana, let them have it without shame or sanction.

Instead of reinforcing fear of a black market, let's make such a market irrelevant.

**Desmond Cole** is a Toronto-based journalist.



**Cannawide marijuana dispensary is raided by Toronto Police officers in Toronto on last week. In decrying the raids, pot advocates have held out the dispensary model as preferable to the "black market."** COLE BURSTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

benefit of actual criminals," Clark said.

The latter part of Clark's statement, about government creation of crime through prohibition, is absent from many condemnations of the raids. Rather, the spectre of a dangerous criminal market is being used to explain why police should leave dispensaries alone.

In a news release calling for all charges to be dropped against dispensary operators and employees, the Toronto

tional suppliers, recreational users have almost certainly been benefitting from dispensaries whose stated purpose is to provide medical marijuana.

Some Toronto dispensaries reportedly have very lax standards for determining a person's medical need for marijuana. If this is true, dispensaries are successfully blurring the line between selling pot for health reasons, and simply helping people get high.

This line needs to be

## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

**In putting health above all, Tootoo has served his country well**

Lately a certain someone has been bemoaning our culture's seeming lack of interest in, even wilful ignorance of, history.

Every time I bring up some newish trend — "white anger in the U.S." — he scoffs and utters some variation of "history repeating itself."

It's an irritating recurrence, but given my own spotty sense of the past, I've decided he's got a point.

And so I feel compelled, in the wake of Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo's resignation, to remind us all of how badly addiction-and-politics stories can go.

Tootoo — who was a historic appointment, the first northern MP to hold the fisheries file — stepped aside with little fuss this week. He released a statement asking for privacy, and only vaguely explained a need to address "addiction issues." The prime minister issued a similarly restrained statement.

Some, including the Aboriginal People's Television Network, left the story mostly at that. Other media went picking for loose threads. The Globe ran a piece claiming the addiction in question was alcohol abuse, and both it and CTV suggested some kind of incident during the Liberal convention. The Toronto Star followed up with Tootoo's father, who said his son will "pull out of it."

We might expect the additional straggling story, but all in all, it's been a sad but

respectable political event. Tootoo managed to leave a high office with his dignity intact, despite whatever he may be dealing with (and I hope he gets whatever help he needs). From what we understand, he executed this graceful exit (for now) for himself. An equally dignified but quieter version of fellow Liberal MP Seamus O'Regan's public announcement this winter he was going to rehab for alcoholism. For both these examples, we should be grateful. In not-so-distant history, all was not thus.

Rob Ford's battle with addiction turned Toronto City Hall into an international laughing stock. It sidelined important city business. It wasted citizens' time and money. It caused apparently irreparable schisms between supporters and critics, mostly because Ford lied with reckless abandon about his problems. Even Ford's well-chronicled rehab efforts were marked with controversy. Everything he touched became a trending story, and rarely was the city served in the process.

In stark contrast, we have Tootoo. He had only recently gained so much, and inspired so many. And instead of fighting to hold onto that, he has chosen to take care of himself. Canadians will be better served in the interim, which means he's also chosen what is best for us. That, above all moves by a politician, is praiseworthy.

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## Love and darkness of the '90s

### INTERVIEW

### Moby memoir covers sex, booze and making music

Melita Kuburas  
Metro | Canada



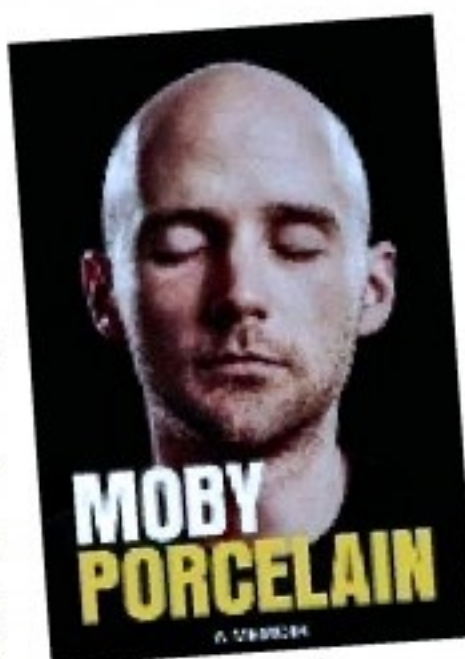
Money has not been a great motivator for Moby.

When the musician got his first big break, a regular DJ-ing gig at a New York City nightclub called Mars, he was living in an abandoned factory in a crack neighbourhood in Stamford. He had no running water and would urinate in an empty water bottle, showering once a week at other people's homes. But his \$50-a-month space had electricity, which meant he could cook oatmeal on a hot plate, and, more importantly, make music.

"It was pretty squalid, but I was considerably happier there than when I lived in a five-level apartment overlooking Central Park, and Bono and Alec Baldwin were my neighbours," Moby says.

In fact, he sees most manifestations of luxury as either gratuitous or something to worry about.

Sitting in a hotel lobby last week wearing jeans, a light gray tee and dark sweatshirt with a few animal hairs clinging to it, the musician has just come back from an interview at a morning TV show in Toronto, discussing his memoir, *Porcelain* (also the title of a song on his hit 1999



album, *Play*, which was recently cited by Adele as having inspired her sound on 25).

"Backstage there were a bunch of pugs and I got to spend like, five minutes rolling around on the floor with pugs," says the animal rights activist and long-time vegan. "If I had \$500 jeans or a \$500 sweatshirt, I would have been scared to do that. And I think there shouldn't be anything in your life that you have to worry about in the presence of pugs."

Born in New York City, Moby grew up in Connecticut, raised by a single mom who occasionally would send him out to buy groceries with food stamps. After his career takes off in the early '90s, he becomes an international star with electronic hits like *Go* and *Feeling So Real*. But his success flounders with the release of a punk rock album called *Animal Rights*, and after eight years of sobriety a post-breakup beer in a San Francisco dive bar

leads to regular binge-drinking and severe anxiety.

Moby wrote *Porcelain*, putting a lot of effort into transporting detail — from the pools of blood of butchered animals in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, to the texture of the sheets and bedspreads in the drab hotel rooms he slept in while on tour. Even the spouts of vomit, semen, and spit that accompany alcohol and drug-fuelled parties are declared.

Through his writing, the past would come to seem more real than the present, says Moby. "It's like Proust with his madeleine in *Remembrance of Things Past* where there's this cascade; this domino effect," he says. "I would just sort of then remember all these different memories and try to describe them in a way that gave them almost a tactile quality."

Living in New York wasn't easy — he writes of encounters with drug dealers, angry cab drivers, and a constant search for love and a soulmate that often left him feeling lonely and insecure.

"Cities even at their best are still difficult, challenging places. And oftentimes whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it."

Still, Moby's biggest fear was having to leave the city and to go back to the "purgatory" of life in the suburbs, he says.

It wasn't being broke that he was afraid of — it was going back to a "lifeless environment."



Moby says cities, even at their best, are difficult and challenging places. "Whether you're an artist or a writer or a musician, sometimes you're making your art or music or writing a reflection of the dynamism of the city but also as a refuge against it." COURTESY MELISSA DANIS

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# Watch your tone

BAD SINGER

**Tim Falconer investigates how we hear in new book**

First, the good news: only 2.5 per cent of the population is scientifically tone deaf. So if you suspect you are, you're probably being too hard on yourself. The bad news: while researching his new book, *Bad Singer*, Tim Falconer found out that he officially qualified.

As a great listener of music, it was a diagnosis the journalist and author found crushing.

"My other books, I would talk about what I was writing," he says, sipping a bottle of water in a Toronto coffeeshop.

"This book, I didn't talk about it because I would have to admit to people I was tone deaf. After I was diagnosed I didn't even tell friends. So, yeah, it's a bit embarrassing."

With *Bad Singer*'s publication, Falconer is adjusting to being known as the guy who literally wrote the book on bad singing. His investigation into how science is illuminating the way we experience music covers physical and psychological barriers to singing, how music communicates emotion and the back seat that pitch takes in pop music.

But it's Falconer's own attempts to outwit his brain's deficit and master singing (or at least master singing the Beatles' *Blackbird*) that forms the throughline of the book.

After Université de Montréal cognitive neuropsychologist Isabelle Peretz diagnosed Falconer



Author Tim Falconer on stage in the Zoomer Radio Concert Hall in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

with congenital amusia, a term she coined to describe what we commonly call tone deafness, he trained for seven months to improve. Then he returned for further testing.

"I spent a day and a half just failing test after test," he recalls (in one test, he was asked to identify music as either a waltz or a march; in another, he sang Happy Birthday with "la la la" in place of

lyrics).

"At the end of the day and a half, one of the researchers took me aside and said, 'We have some results. There has been modest improvement.' So I thought, I guess I'll keep going. But I think if I weren't a writer, I would have given up fairly early on."

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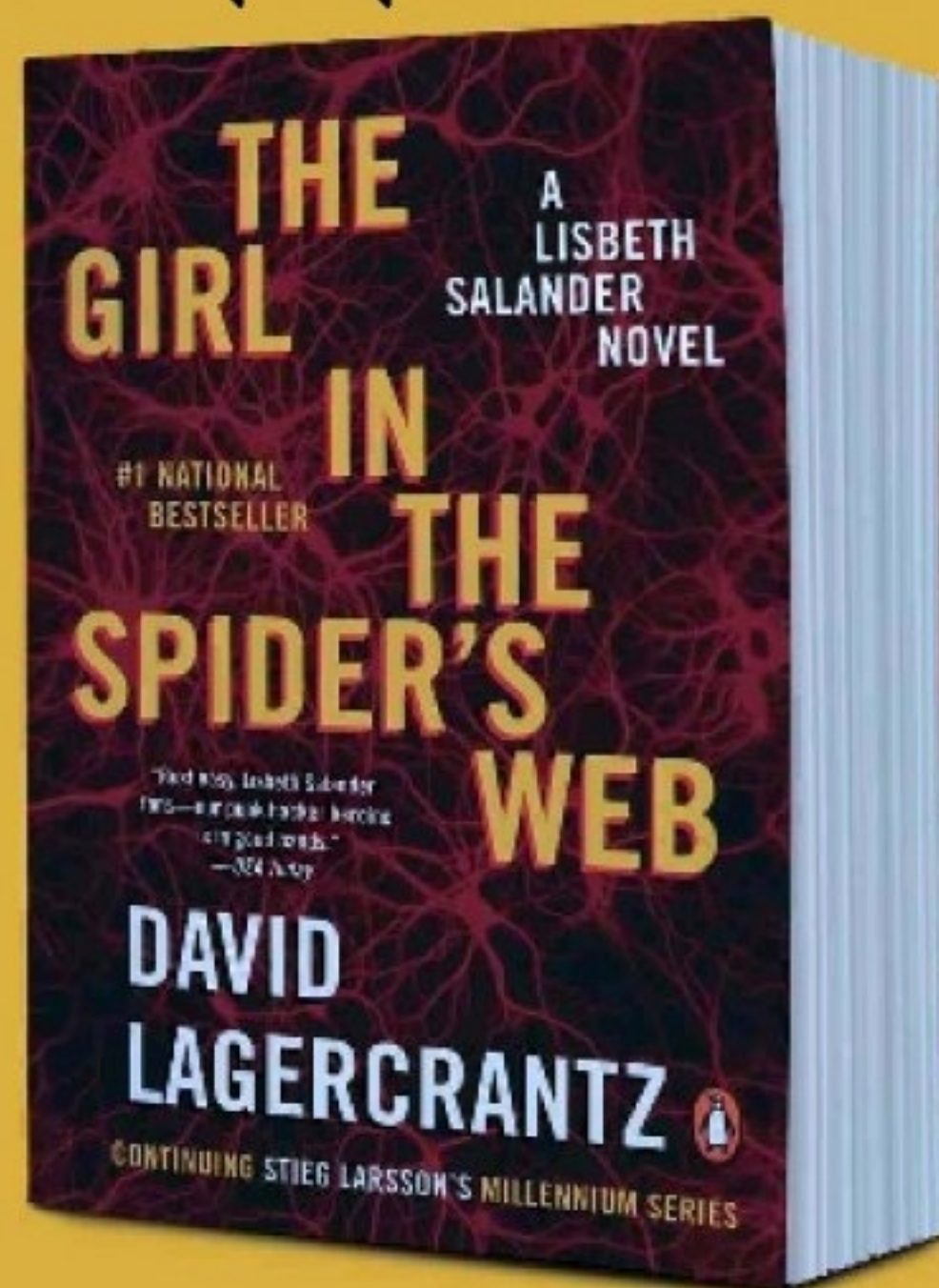
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# Historical meets modern

## Project overview

St. Joseph's Square in the heart of the Hydrostone district is a harmonious mix of historical and modern design. St. Joseph's Square is made up of 106 designer apartment suites complete with fresh, innovative design and thoughtful, quality construction.

## Housing amenities

There are tailored finishes and strong minimalistic features including well-appointed kitchens and sleek bathrooms designed by the innovative Halifax architectural firm Dixel Architecture. The building amenities feature a fitness centre, lounge, kitchen and dining area, plenty of green space and a patio area.

## Location and transit

Located next to the Hydrostone market in Halifax's north end, St. Joseph's Square is just steps away from local shops and coveted Halifax dining. Close to public parks and tree lined streets, St. Joseph's Square allows residents to stroll or bike to community amenities and services.

## In the area

The Hydrostone neighborhood blends historical elements with modern comforts, complete with character and charm. Long considered a trend-setting neighborhood of Halifax, the Hydrostone provides conveniences of downtown living while maintaining a traditional neighborhood feel.



ST. JOSEPH'S SQUARE

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# SIX LESSONS FOR THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER

How do buyers hoping to break into the competitive and pricey home market prepare for their first purchase? Here are six of the most important lessons first-home buyers can learn:

## Lesson #1: Figure out your budget.

Aside from your down payment and mortgage, "there are other costs associated with the transaction, as well as the setting up and running of your new home, like legal fees, home repairs, furnishings and maintenance," says Erica Nielsen, VP of Home Equity Financing at RBC. "Look to your mortgage specialist to help you set up a realistic budget."

## Lesson #2: Get preapproved.

"We hear stories about people who look and even purchase a home that stretches the bounds of what they can afford," says Nielsen. "Get preapproved first so you can be looking for homes that are relevant to what you can actually afford." It's never too early to find out how much you can afford, and put the preapproval in place. It just means you're ready, and

there's no commitment to buy.

## Lesson #3: Decide what's most important.

"Think about what's most important to you at this stage of life and over the longer term." Nielsen suggests looking at a five-year horizon and weighing those things that are most important, then aligning them as closely as possible to your budget.

## Lesson #4: Surround yourself with a good team.

Talk to people and ask for recommendations. "Most importantly, you need to work with experts you trust," says Nielsen: a good mortgage specialist to help with your budget and financing and a real estate agent who understands your needs and the neighbourhood you want.

## Lesson #5: Consider unique approaches.

Fixer-uppers, income properties and sharing ownership are just a few creative ways to make a home affordable, but educating yourself is key. "Should you purchase with someone



The key step for first-time home buyers is to surround yourself with experts you trust. iStock

else, you need open communication; be clear about what's affordable and agree on an exit strategy if someone wants to sell out," advises Nielsen.

## Lesson #6: Don't let a few disappointments get you down.

In a competitive real estate market, it's import-

ant for first-time homebuyers to realize it may be necessary to bid on multiple homes. "Focus on the end game and not each individual bid," says Nielsen.

"First-time buyers will eventually find a home they're delighted with. Remember, there are many houses out there that will meet your needs and your budget."

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Cleveland outfielder Marlon Byrd has been suspended 162 games for testing positive a second time for a performance-enhancing drug

## STANLEY CUP FINAL

### Sheary stakes Pens to 2-0 lead

Rookie Conor Sheary scored in overtime to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins over the San Jose Sharks 2-1 on Wednesday in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup final.

Pittsburgh now holds a 2-0 series lead.

Phil Kessel scored in regulation for the Penguins, while Matt Murray made 21 saves.

Justin Braun's goal late in the third period forced extra time for San Jose. Martin Jones stopped 28 shots for the Sharks.

The series heads west to San Jose for Games 3 and 4, beginning on Saturday night at SAP Center.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Conor Sheary  
GETTY IMAGES

## GAME 2 In Pittsburgh



# Christmas coming early for Dartmouth prospect

## QMJHL

### Defenceman McIsaac excited to don jersey at weekend's draft



Kristen Lipscombe  
Metro | Halifax

Jared McIsaac imagines this Saturday will feel a lot like "Christmas morning."

That's when the 16-year-old Dartmouth resident will put on the jersey of his new Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team for the very first time.

McIsaac, a six-foot-two, 209-pound defenceman, is expected to be one of the top picks at this weekend's QMJHL draft, taking place at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown.

"I'm pretty excited," the star player with the Cole Harbour Wolfpack of the Nova Scotia Major Midget Hockey League said Wednesday.

While local hockey fans debate who the Halifax Mooseheads will select first overall, McIsaac's plan is to "just soak it all in and have fun."

"Not many people get to experience it," said McIsaac, who tallied 14 goals and 22 assists for 36 points, in addition to 44 penalty minutes, in 33 games over the 2015-16



Dartmouth resident Jared McIsaac, 16, is ranked No. 2 by QMJHL Central Scouting heading into this weekend's draft in Charlottetown. TRURO DAILY NEWS/TC MEDIA

regular season.

The Truro native, who moved into the municipality with his family to hone his on-ice skills and attend the Maritime Hockey Academy, also notched three goals and six assists for nine points, along with 32 penalty

minutes, in nine playoff games.

McIsaac, who calls himself "a two-way defenceman," certainly had a busy year, also representing Canada at the 2016 Youth Olympic Games this past February in Lillehammer, Norway, earning a silver medal.

"I'm lucky," McIsaac said of the special season, while taking a break from a sunny afternoon on the golf course — a moment to relax before making the drive to Prince Edward Island on Thursday.

McIsaac has been ranked

“

It's about what's the best fit for Jared ... Whoever drafts him is who really wants him; who really loves him.

Proud dad Jamie McIsaac

second overall by QMJHL Central Scouting. He's up against players such as forward Benoit-Olivier Groulx of Gatineau, Que., who is listed at No. 1, and forward Gabriel Fortier of Lac St-Louis, Que., who is third in the rankings.

Despite all the recent prospect talk, McIsaac isn't stressing out about how high he's drafted and which team drafts him.

"I want to be the first person to put on a jersey come Saturday, but if I'm not, I'm going to make the most of it," he said.

But McIsaac admits it would be pretty ideal to be picked by the Mooseheads, who also have the seventh, 15th, 20th, 23rd and 28th overall picks in the first two rounds.

"To play in front of your hometown — even though I'm from Truro, I still consider them my hometown team — and all the family and friends that would come to the games," he said, "that'd be awesome."

## NBL CANADA

### Canes set to battle Lightning for league supremacy

The Halifax Hurricanes have a chance to make basketball history.

But before they can win the city's first-ever National Basketball League of Canada championship, they have to win four games against the London Lightning, the first of which unfolds Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre.

"We've just got to take care of tomorrow's game," Hurricanes head coach Hugo Lopez said Wednesday of the first showdown in the best-of-seven battle for league bragging

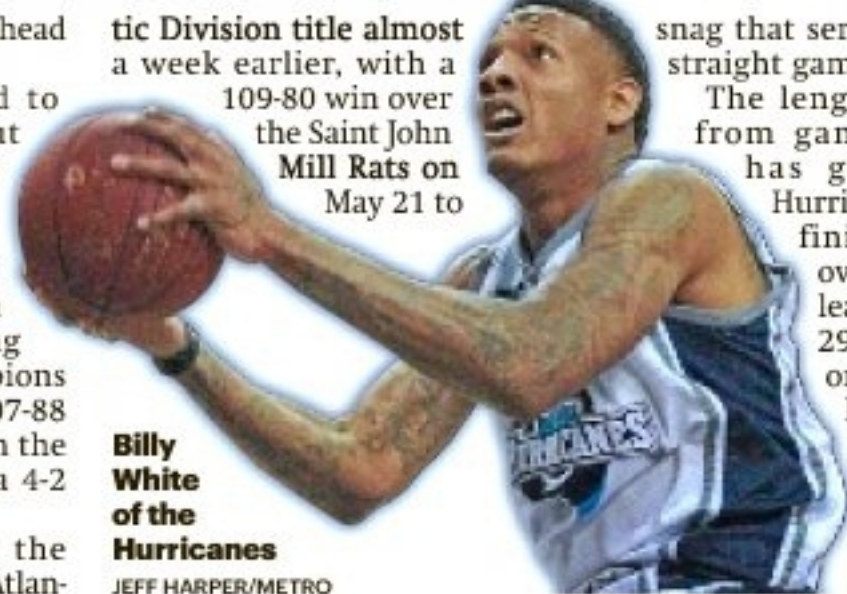
rights. "We cannot look ahead more than Game 1."

The Hurricanes had to wait awhile to find out who'd they be tipping off against for the NBL Canada title.

The Lightning just wrapped up their division final last Friday, beating defending league champions the Windsor Express 107-88 to win Game 6 and claim the Central Division with a 4-2 series upset.

The Hurricanes, on the other hand, snagged the Atlan-

tic Division title almost a week earlier, with a 109-80 win over the Saint John Mill Rats on May 21 to



Billy White  
of the  
Hurricanes  
JEFF HARPER/METRO

snag that series in four straight games.

The lengthy break from game action has given the Hurricanes, who finished first overall in the league with a 29-11 record on the regular season, a chance to rest, recover from minor bumps

and bruises, and get plenty of practice time on their home court.

The Halifax roster is healthy and eager to hit the floor, Lopez said. "We're ready to go. We know London is a great team," he added. "They have good chemistry; they have a very experienced team."

The Lightning finished the regular season with a 26-14 record.

"We've just got to come out of the gate in the best way possible," Lopez said.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

## + SERIES SKED

**GAME 1:** Thursday, 7 p.m. AT at Scotiabank Centre in Halifax

**GAME 2:** Friday, 7 p.m. AT in Halifax

**GAME 3:** Monday, 8 p.m. AT at Budweiser Gardens in London

**GAME 4:** Wednesday, 8 p.m. AT in London

**GAME 5:** June 10, 8 p.m. AT in London

**GAME 6:** June 12, 8 p.m. AT in Halifax.

**GAME 7:** Date and time to be determined; to take place in Halifax.

\*If necessary



# RECIPE Sundried Tomato and Spinach Farfalli with Walnuts



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

**Ready in**  
Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes

## Ingredients

- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup drained and sliced oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 pound farfalle pasta
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons vegetable stock or water
- freshly grated parmesan cheese

## Directions

**1.** In a small skillet, warm walnuts over medium heat so they release their oils and are warm, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat

and place in small bowl.

**2.** Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta until al dente. Scoop a bit of pasta water from the pot before draining.

**3.** In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil and then add garlic, sun-dried tomatoes and crushed red pepper. Sauté until garlic is a golden brown, about 3 minutes. Add a handful of spinach in batches and cook until each batch is wilted.

**4.** In a large serving bowl, whisk ricotta cheese with stock or water. (Use pasta water if you don't have any stock handy.) Then add spinach mixture, pasta and walnuts; toss to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste and grate fresh parmesan cheese over top and serve.

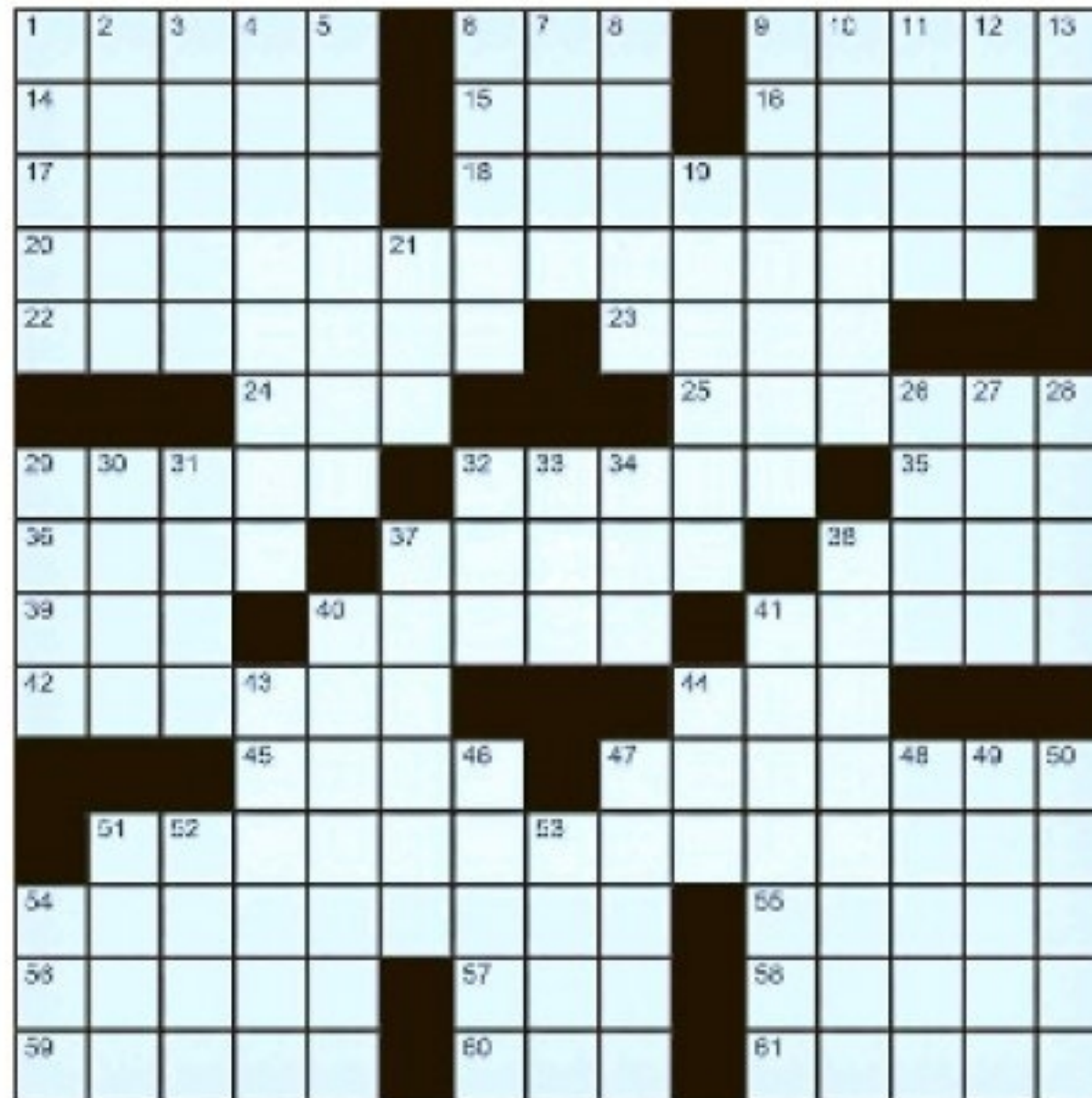
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# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

## ACROSS

1. Singer Ms. Terrell
6. Smartphone purchase
9. 'Twilight' actress, to fans
14. After-midnight hour: wd. + acr.
15. \_\_\_ Julie, Quebec
16. "One Day at \_\_\_"
17. "It \_\_\_ Me" by Shaggy feat. Rikrok
18. Great Lake \_\_\_en francais
20. Lameque and Mis-cou, in New Brunswick: 2 wds.
22. Luxury getaways
23. Elvis' "\_\_\_ Stung"
24. English actor Christopher
25. Figure skater Ms. Baial
29. Wolf, for one
32. Quebec 'book'
35. Douglas \_\_\_ (BC big tree)
36. Kilted family
37. Driving speed cap
38. Canadian series, "Wind at My \_\_\_"
39. Performance purchase, puny-ly
40. 10th Greek letter
41. Toast starter...
42. 1989: Oil spill ship, Exxon \_\_\_
44. Brooch
45. "Movin' \_\_\_": "The Jeffersons" song: 2 wds.
47. Herbal drink for a wise one?: 2 wds.
51. Four-leaf clovers: 3 wds.
54. Shirley Douglas' role on #38-Across: 2 wds.



55. Creamy cheeses
56. Bubbling on the stove
57. Absorb
58. Fridge brand
59. Second 'R' of J.R.R. Tolkien's name
60. WNW's reverse
61. Australian songstress Helen

## DOWN

1. Battle, Go \_\_\_
2. Within \_\_\_ of (Nearly)
3. Geological flattops
4. Country music instrument
5. End-of-day complaint: 2 wds.

6. Formal orgs.
7. Sound of disgust, comics-style
8. Coke alternative
9. Bar's lipsynch-ing fun
10. Times on the job
11. Linked
12. Flightless flap-pers

13. "\_\_\_ in Need of a Musical Revolution" by Canadian singer Esthero
19. Ansel of horror remake "Carrie" (2013)
21. Ingested ingredients
26. Outlying
27. Sugar-topped

- cookie's name
28. Sacred chests
29. Surveillance system, e.g.
30. \_\_\_-Seltzer
31. NHL 'N', briefly
32. \_\_\_ balm (Make-up item)
33. Pixie
34. Touristy thoroughfare in Rome, \_\_\_ Veneto
37. Blue semi-precious stone found in Kimmirut in Nunavut, Lapis \_\_\_
38. 1985 hit for English band ABC: 3 wds.
40. "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" cast member
41. Apparatus in gymnastics: 2 wds.
43. "Listen to the Music" by The \_\_\_ Brothers
44. Ocean, e.g.
46. Legume
47. Communicating-by-Web service
48. Set of three
49. Make corrections to text
50. Ore evaluation
51. Vinnie's '70s sitcom teacher
52. Shakespeare: "\_\_\_ hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome..."
53. Boardroom VIPs
54. Spoil

# ★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
This is a good day for financial negotiations, but guard against extravagance. Nevertheless, look for ways to boost your income and get value for your money.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
This is a strong day for you. The Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky, moneybags Jupiter. Financial speculation might interest you.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You will enjoy relaxing at home if you get the chance. You want to cocoon and be by yourself. In any case, this is an easy-going day.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Time spent with a female friend will be rewarding today. This person might encourage you to explore new ideas about politics, religion or long-distance travel.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
You make a great impression on others today, and this impression ultimately might bring you more money in the future. Don't hesitate to be generous to someone.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Shake things up a little, because you need some adventure today. You want to do something different. A short trip or an interaction with someone unusual will please you.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Be open to the offers of others, because you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today. In turn, you might be generous to someone at work. (What goes around, comes around.)

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Relations with others, especially partners and close friends, are warm and friendly today because people are upbeat. Make plans to have fun in the future.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
It will be easy to get the cooperation of others at work today. If you do this, something will happen that makes you look good in the eyes of your boss.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
This is a playful day for your sign! Make room for some fun activities with romantic interests, friends or children, because you will enjoy yourself.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Home and family are your primary concerns today. In fact, this is a good day to look into real estate possibilities or how to improve your home.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Because you are in such a positive frame of mind today, others want to be in your company. Everyone likes to be with someone who is upbeat and happy.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

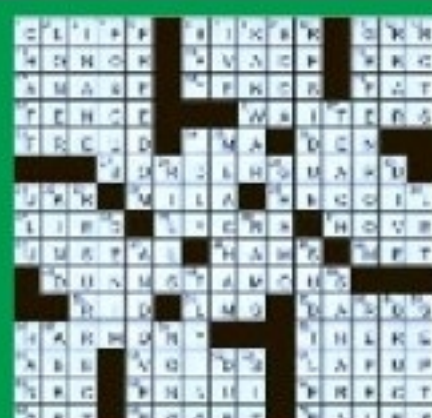
Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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\*Specials in effect June 2-3 while supplies last.



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